

Comparative Studies of Educating Methods of Different - Structured Languages: Etymological and Semantic Aspect

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Abstract

The concepts in English and Russian dictionary sources of various types are used in the study to help teachers. The aim is to investigate the educating methods, not only for foreign students but also native speakers of the Russian language to acquaint themselves with the ideas of interpretation of individual images by the representatives of a given nation. In the course of the research, analyzing approximately 40 common methods of teaching (explanatory, encyclopedic, scientific and technical, etc.). Results confer the possibility of grasping the intended concepts of folklore, literary texts or folk art and as well as abstract concepts. However, these concepts emerge from the interaction of national tradition and folklore, religion and ideology, life experience and images of art, sensations and value systems of this ethnic system.

Keywords: comparative analysis, concept, etymology of the word, vocabulary interpretations

1. Introduction

The topicality of this article is dictated by the choice of the priority area in modern humanistic research of the twentieth century – the questions about the interaction of language, mind, thinking, national culture and cross-culture dialogues. Modern science is characterized by an increased interest in the study of the anthropocentricity of the language and the linguists' and psychologists' works, which are at the junction of the most important disciplinary domains of modern linguistics – linguistic culturology and linguistic conception, deal with these ideas (Abramov, 1999; Akhmanova, 2004; Luchinina, 2004; Ozhegov, 1987; Yefremova, 2000; Maslova, 2001; Zhampeisov et al., 2018).

The problems of studying individual concepts in modern linguistics are so complex, diverse and deep that they require a continuous keen insight into their essence. The concept “tree” that have chosen for research belongs to the thematic group “nature” in the English and Russian language world-image and also attracts attention by the fact that natural phenomena in various cultures, namely, those studied in English and Russian language cultures, occupy a special place and appreciated in various genres of literary ethnos. In the texts of fiction and in folklore, nature, life and emotional coloring of person's traits or his feelings are inseparable components in the emotional and metaphoric worlds of the linguocultures of a particular people under study. This concept is present in almost all nations. Using this concept, narrates the ways of life and national traditions. it lays out the ideas and visions of the people about good and evil, justice, demonstrates the spirit of the people and its moral and aesthetic values, through which one can trace the perception, way of thinking, the national way and character of the people.

2. Methods

The article provides insight into the interpretation of the lexical representation of the concept proposed by various explanatory, stylistic, encyclopedic, technical and other dictionaries. All its meanings, as well as the frequency of determination in percentage terms, are revealed.

The analysis of the set of syntactic positions of the lexemes objectifying the concept is carried out from the point of view that the ability of some linguistic units to open positions for other units to replace them acts as a categorizing or classifying function of a given word in relation to other words. Thus, verbs, nouns, adjectives, prepositions that are included in the contextual surrounding of lexemes representing the concept under study are considered as the concept classifiers from which a general pattern of the organization of knowledge of tree represented in different types of Russian, English and Tatar linguistic cultures is gleaned.

In the course of research, forty dictionaries (explanatory, encyclopedic, scientific and technical, etc.) were analysed.

3. Results and Discussion

The analysis of etymological dictionaries enables to obtain the most extensive knowledge about the meanings of the concept “tree”, “дерево” in order to identify the semantics of the concept being studied, as well as to analyze its changes.

The lexical entries of the analyzed concept give the definition of the meaning of the very word, its derivatives and cognates, and conjugate words in other languages of the studied group of languages. Having carefully analyzed the dictionaries and combined the efforts of the authors of these dictionaries, the following conclusion can be made about the etymological origin of this word:

TREE originated from **Old English** *treo*, *treow* “tree” (also “лес” / forest), from **Proto-Germanic** **trewan* (cf. **Old Frisian** *tre*, **Old Saxon** *trio*, **Old Norwegian** *tre*, **Gothic** *triu*), from **Proto-Indo-European** **deru-* “дуб” / oak (cf. **Sanskrit** *dru* “дерево, лес” / tree, forest, *daru* “лес, бревно” / forest, log, **Greek** *drys* “дуб” / oak, *doru* “копье” / spear; **the Church Slavonic language** *drievō* “дерево, лес” / tree, forest; **Serbian** *drvo* “дерево” / tree, *drva* “лес” / forest, **Rus** *drevo* “дерево, лес” / tree, *fprest*, **Czech** *drva*; **Polish** *drwa* “лес” / forest, **Lithuanian** *derva* “сосновый лес” / pine forest, **Old Irish** *daur*, **Welsh** *derwen* “дуб” / oak, **Albanian** *drusk* “дуб” / oak). The importance of oak in mythology is reflected in the frequent use of the word “oak” for the meaning “tree”. So, for example, in **Old Icelandic** *Eik* (“oak”) was used to designate “tree” as a whole, but oaks never grew in Iceland (Gilyarov et al., 1986; Akhmetianov, 2001; Collins Pocket English Dictionary, 2009; Dal’, 2000; Millanei & Khalili, 2016; Eilzaki & Jalalian, 2016; Chernykh, 1999).

ДЕРЕВО /(**tree**), -а, compare – 1. “многолетнее растение с твердым стволом и отходящими от него ветвями, образующими крону” / “perennial plant with a solid stem and branches extending from it, forming a crown”; 2) “древесина”, “строительный материал” / “wood”, “building material”.

1) **ДЕРЕВО** (**TREE**): plural *дерёвья* (from **dervъje*, dial. *деревъа*), **Ukrainian** *дѣрево* – “древесина” / wood, **Old Slavonic** *дркво*, *дрквѣсѣ* and *дрква* – “дерево” / tree, **Serbo-Croat** *Дрѣјево* – “дерево” / tree, **Bulgarian** *Дзѣрава* – “древесина” / wood, **Slovene** *drev ô*, *drevêsa*, **Czech** *dřevo* – “живое дерево” / natural tree, **Slovakian** *drevo*, **Polish** *drzewo*, **High Sorbian** *drjewo*, **Low Sorbian** *drjewo* – “дерево” / tree.

Related to **Lithuanian** *derv à* – “сосна” / pine tree; to the other vocalism: *darva* – “смола” / gum, **Latvian** *darva* – “смола” / gum, “деготь” / pitch, **Anglo-Saxon** *teru* – “смола” / gum, **Greek** *δόρυ* – “дерево, брус, копье” / tree, beam, spear *δρῦς* – “дерево (растение), дуб” / tree(plant) oak, **Ancient Indian** *dāru*, *dru* – “дерево (материал)”, “полено” / timber, log, **Zend** *dauru*, – *dru* – “дерево” / tree, **Irish** *derucc* – “желудь” / acorn, *daur* – “дуб” / oak, **Breton** *dervenn* – “дуб” / oak, **Gaulish** *dervo* – in regional way of writing *Dervus* – “дубовый лес” / oak grove [here also Gothic *triu*, English *tree* – “дерево” / tree, **Hittite** *taru* – the same – T.], **Latin** *larix* – “лиственница” / larch tree to “сабинским” / Sabine l. Archaic and poetic *дрѣво* (Great Dictionary of Foreign Words, 2005; Prokhorov, 1991; Great Encyclopedia, 2000).

The adjective *деревянный*, - ая, - ое. Here is also *древесный*, - ая, - ое, *древесина*, *дрѣво*.

Based on the analysis of 40 dictionaries (explanatory, encyclopedic, scientific and technical, etc.), they have got the following meanings of the word “tree” / “дерево” in English and Russian, presented below, with the frequency of their use.

The most frequent meaning turned out to be the following one in English and Russian dictionary sources:

any large woody perennial plant with a distinct trunk giving rise to branches or leaves at some distance from the ground. This meaning amounts to 75% in English dictionaries and to 87% in Russian ones.

The second most common in English is the following definition, which makes up 50% of all meanings:

a diagram that has branches in descending lines showing relationships as of hierarchy or lineage. However, such a definition in Russian amounts only to 12.5%.

The following is the definition below:

something resembling a tree in form or size – 45%; they see a similar definition in Russian: *переносное значение, определяющую объект или структуру которого имеет форму дерева, а также сама структура* (a figurative meaning, designating for an object or structure which has the shape of a tree, as well as the very structure) - 12.5%.

Common to the linguocultural communities in question is the meaning of “бревно, брус” / “log, beams” – with a frequency of 12.5% in Russian dictionaries and 35% in English dictionaries.

The definition in Russian dictionaries *древесина, пиломатериал, идущий на постройки и изделия* (wood, lumber for buildings and production) is 31%, whereas in the English language – only 10% (Kuznetsov, 2003; Macmillan, 1984; Yefremova, 2000; Rahmanto et al., 2018; Escalera Ch ávez et al., 2019).

In both languages, there are also definitions that are peculiar only to a particular culture. The following meanings were found in English dictionaries:

- in a situation of great difficulty or perplexity; helpless – 30%;
- archaic the cross on which Christ was crucified – 25%;
- chem a treelike crystal growth; dendrite – 20%;
- Computer Science: a structure for organizing or classifying data in which every item can be traced to a single origin through a unique path – 20%; an archaic word for gallows – 20%;
- any of a variety of shrubs, bushes, or plants similar to a tree in shape or size – 15%;
- the highest position of a profession – 10%;

In Russian dictionary sources, the following definition of the word “*дерево*” / “*tree*” in the figurative meaning of the word, used in colloquial vocabulary, was found out: *подразумевающее глупого, медленно соображающего человека* (implying a stupid, slowwitted person) – 12.5%.

Russian dictionary sources also have single meanings that are not indicated in the English sources they analyze:

It should be noted that the basic definition of “*tree*” is designated as its botanical meaning, which is the highest rating for both linguocultures. In addition, such meanings as “*building material*”, “*family tree*”, “*figurative meaning defining an object or structure which has the shape of a tree, as well as the structure itself*” overlap. But the meanings that are not inherent in the second studied culture are also exposed.

4. Summary

This study confers the possibility to assume that the meanings that are not in the dictionary entries can stand exposed when studying folklore, literary texts or folk art and have equivalent meanings. Concepts emerge from the interaction of national tradition and folklore, religion and ideology, life experience and images of art, sensations and value systems of this ethnic system. Therefore, the concept of the concept is inseparably associated with the definition of the national mentality (Dal', 2000; <http://www.merriam-webster.com>). Thus, a comparison of dictionary definitions gives only the basis to continue studying and eliciting new meanings when analyzing fiction and phraseological units of the target peoples.

The differences we have found out lead us to the conclusion that these distinctions in interpretations of dictionary entries are related to the specifics of the language, expressing an attitude to this subject and its perception taking into account the peculiarity of the national mentality of the native speakers of these languages. The concept “*tree*” has significant diversities in the languages under consideration and in quantitative and qualitative plans, which indicates the influence of national specificity, determined by the historical, geographical, socio-cultural characteristics of the societies of interest.

Similar definitions, which constitute the highest percentage of perception, show that the concept *tree / дерево* is universal for the peoples of the English and Russian languages.

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